

## Ecological Classification System - Fall '99 Update--*Tim Nigh, MDC*

**ECS ATLAS** A template representing the structure, content and figures for a Missouri ECS Atlas has been designed and approved for publication. The atlas will have an introduction to ECS and its application in Missouri, chapters describing each subsection, and maps and tables describing the landtype associations within each subsection. The manuscript will be completed by January 2000. MDC publications will coordinate the production of the atlas. When complete it will be available to put into your car for use as you cruise and learn Missouri's ecosystems.

**LTA Coverage** A digital coverage of statewide LTAs is currently available, but its attributes include only the codes and names for each unit. We are in the process of attributing each unit with a general description, its location and boundaries, and numerous quantitative attributes concerning the topography, geology, soils and vegetation within each unit. This coverage will be available by January 2000.

**ELT Manual** A DRAFT manual describing the Ecological Landtypes and Phases within the Current River Hills subsection is nearing completion (see figure). The draft manual is being shared with natural resource managers in the region, and its application tested in planning and management sce-narios. We will use this experience over the next 6 months to make the manual as user friendly as possible. Final release will be sometime in 2000.

